

**R cycling l ictronic circuit boards and compon nts**

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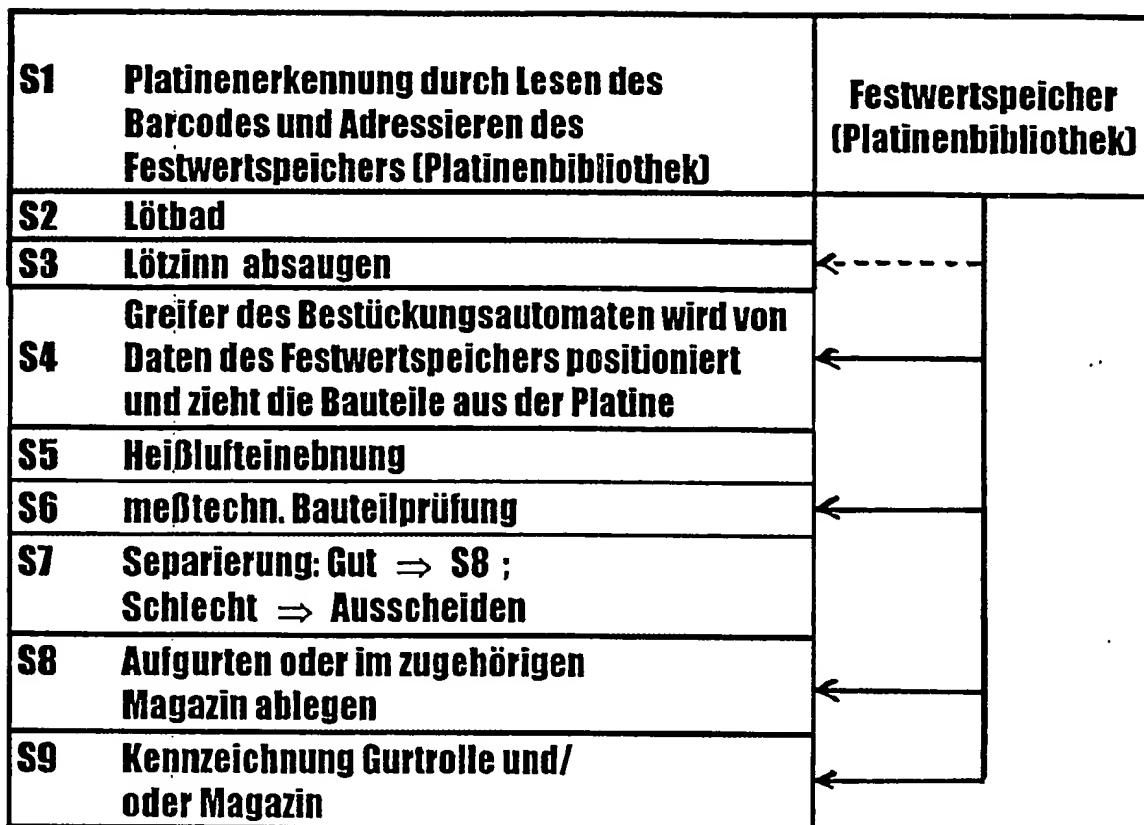
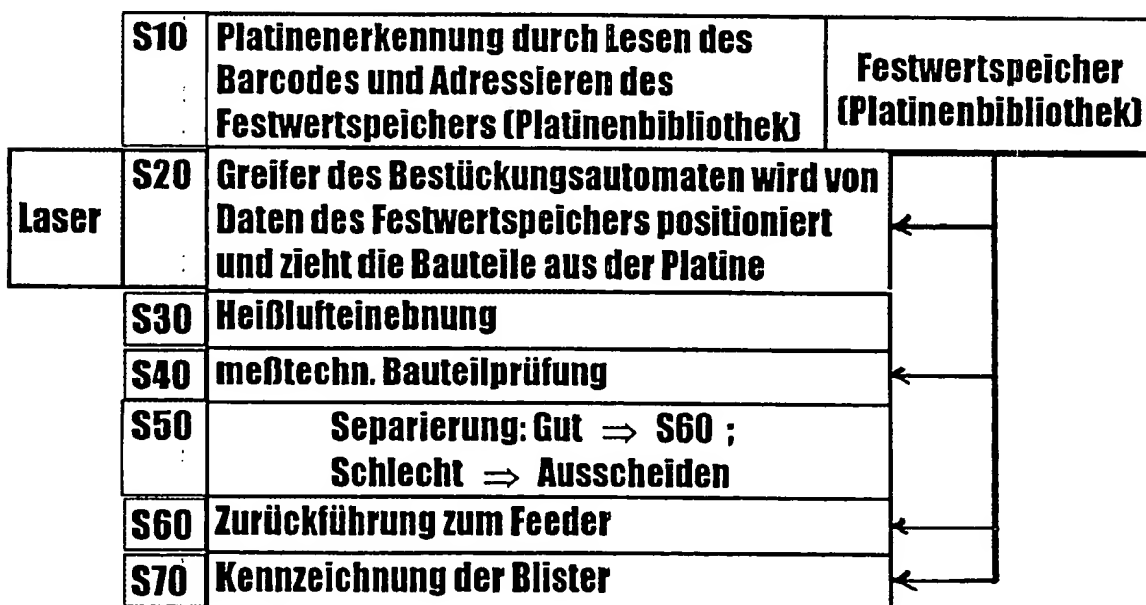
**Abstract**

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The method allows recycling of electronic circuit boards which have been furnished with components from a belt or magazine under control of a computer program and which are soldered by dipping or drawing through solder. The circuit board presented is identified and the corresponding program is called up. The program is then modified to run backwards. The solder points are heated to above the melting point of the solder. The circuit board is then subjected to a pressure-vacuum treatment in which a higher pressure acts on the upper side of the board than on the lower side. The components are then withdrawn from the board under program control and are returned to the relevant magazine or belt. The apparatus for carrying out the recycling method includes a reader (3) to read a bar code on the circuit board (1). The bar code is sent to the control device (4) and reverses the operation of the program. The control device (4) controls the component mounting mechanism (9) to withdraw the mounted components from the board (1). The lower side of the board (1) is arranged in a vacuum chamber (7) to receive the removed solder. The components are returned to the relevant magazine (10') or conveyor belt (10).

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*Fig. 1**Fig. 2*

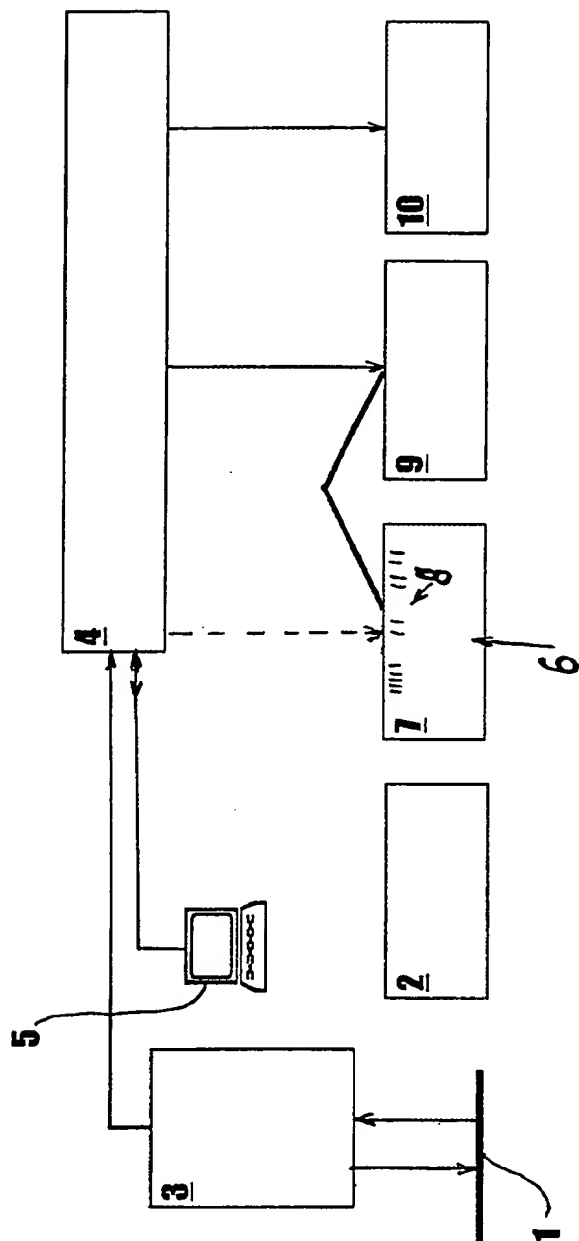


Fig. 3